Cowbridge Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

COWBRIDGE
D. BROWN AND SONS, PRINTERS
1940

Cowbridge Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

COWBRIDGE
D. BROWN AND SONS, PRINTERS
1940

COWBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cowbridge Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Pickford and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural Area for the year 1939, drawn up in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London), Regulations, 1935 and Circular 1961 (Wales) dated 16th February, 1940.

~~Instructions have been received from the Welsh Board of~~ Health in view of the increasing pressure of work ~~in the~~ Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, ~~of~~ the need of strict economy in the use of ~~paper,~~ and the Annual Report has therefore, been con~~fined to the essential matters.~~

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Pickford and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. BRUCE MUNRO.
Medical Officer of Health.

11th October, 1940.

ERRATA:

Instructions have been received from the Welsh Board of Health that, in view of the increasing pressure of work in Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, and in view of the strict economy in the use of paper, the Annual Report should be confined to essential matters.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	40,020
Registrar General's Estimate of the Rcsident Population :	
(*a*) For calculation of Birth Rates	14,350
(*b*) For calculation of Death Rates or incidence of notifiable disease	13,840
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1939)	2,621 ~~21,624~~
Rateable Value	£46,404
Estimated product of a 1d. rate	£220

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total.	*Male.*	*Female.*	Crude Bir.R'te.
Live Births—Legitimate	201	108	93	14.49
Illegitimate	7	3	4	

Corrected Birth Rate for Cowbridge R.D.C.	..... 15.51
Birth Rate for England and Wales	..... 15.00

				Crude Death Rate
Deaths	133	67	66	9.610

Corrected Death Rate for Cowbridge R.D.C.	..... 10.282
Death Rate for England and Wales	..... 12.1

The 7 Still Births constitute a rate of 33 per 1000 total Births.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	1
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	2
Total	3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.077
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.776
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	142.857

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles ,, ...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1.—(*a*) Medical Officer—

R. Bruce Munro, M.B.,B.S. (London) D.P.H. (Wales), Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

(*b*) Other Officers—

Ernest Whone, M.B.E., F.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

Hubert Thomas, A.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

Miss E. Rawnsley, Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Visitor (whole time) Full General Training, Qualified Midwife, and Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

2.—OTHER HEALTH SERVICES.

No changes were effected under this heading during the year 1939. These services are as follows :—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

BIRTHS REGISTERED—

Legitimate Live Births	180	
Illegitimate Live Births	4	
	—	184
Legitimate Still Births	5	
Illegitimate Still Births	-	

NOTIFIED WITHIN 36 HOURS.

Live Births by Midwives	.....	.....	150
Still Births by Midwives	.....	.....	5
Live Births by Doctors	.....	.....	1
Still Births by Doctors	.....	.....	-
Live Births notified from R.A.F. Station		.....	33

NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS—

Legitimate, under one year	.....	.....	6
Illegitimate, under one year	.....	.....	1
Legitimate, one to five years	.....	.....	2
Illegitimate, one to five years	.....	.....	—

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITOR—

To Infants under one year	1st Visits	.....	183
do.	Re-Visits	.....	493
To Infants over 1 and under 5	1st Visits	.....	19
do. do.	Re-Visits	.....	1,668
TOTAL	.....		2,368

LLANHARAN CHILD WELFARE CLINIC—

No. of Sessions held	25		
Number of names on Register	168		
First Attendance under one year		110	
Repeat attendance under one year		468	
First attendance one to five years		58	
Repeat attendances one to five years		322	
TOTAL		958	
Average attendance per Clinic		34.3	

Number of application for cows' milk for period 1 pint per day	128
Number of applications for cows' milk for period 1 quart per day	13
Approximate amount of milk supplied	534 galls.
Approximate cost	£53

LLANHARAN ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Number of Sessions held	13		
First attendance expectant mothers		67	
Repeat attendance expectant mothers		85	
		—	152

Average attendance per Clinic 11.6

LLANTWIT MAJOR CHILD CLINIC.

Number of Names on Register		68		
First attendance under one year	38			
Repeat attendances under one year	82			
First attendances 1 to 5 years	30			
Repeat attendances do.	92	Total		242
Average attendance per Clinic				20
Number of applications for Cow's Milk				8
Three months supply of Cow & Gate to one person Approximate amount supplied				28
Approximate cost			£2 16s. 0d.	
Total approximate cost of milk (including dried milk) for the whole area			£59 10s. 0d.	

Llantwit Major Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of sessions held	12		
Expectant mothers First attendances		7	
Repeat attendances expectant mothers		6	
		—	13
Average attendance per Clinic	1.1		

Infant Protection Act .... Nil.

Dental Treatment for 1939.

Expectant or Nursing Mothers receiving Dental Treatment	20
Expectant or Nursing Mothers receiving Dentures	10
Children under 5 years of age receiving treatment	8

Maternity Hospital.

Number of Mothers sent to Hospital for Confinement under the Council's Scheme	24

Ante-Natal Visits to mothers in their own home

First Visits	32	
Re-Visits	46	Total 78

Puerperal Fever	-	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Measles	49	Whooping Cough	20
Hernia, Umbilica	3	Bronchitis	7
Influenza	25	Chicken Pox	24
Pneumonia	3	Mumps	2
Rickets	3	Scarlet Fever	12
Impetigo	5	Ringworm	2
Diphtheria	3		

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(*a*) Diphtheria.

Fifteen cases of diphtheria were notified during the year as compared with thirty for the previous year. Only one of these was taken from the southern part of the area, the other fourteen being residents of the northern sector.

(*b*) Tuberculosis.

15 New cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year 1939 as compared with 18 for the year 1938. Prompt disinfection was carried out in each case upon removal. In seven cases the bedding was conveyed to Cefn Hirgoed Isolation Hospital for the purpose of Steam Disinfection. Spitoons and free disinfectants are supplied to approved cases. The cases needing Hospital treatment received almost immediate attention.

(*c*) Scarlet Fever.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases in Scarlet Fever occuring during the year; forty-two cases being notified as against thirty-three for the year 1938. It was found necessary to remove thirty of the patients to the Isolation Hospital.

A notable point about the incidence of Scarlet Fever in the Area during the year was a mild epidemic occuring in the village of Llanharry. 47.6 per cent. of the total cases notified were residents of this village.

(*d*) Erysipelas.

One case of erysipelas was reported during the year. This man a member of H.M. Forces.

(*e*) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported during the year 1939.

(*f*) Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Only one case of Cerebro Spinal Fever was notified during the year. This was an eighteen year old member of the R.A.F. Station, St. Athan. The disease proved fatal after removal to hospital was effected.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	*Total cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths.*
Scarlet Fever	*42	30	—
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Pneumonia	5	3	‡5
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	—
TOTALS	67	51	7

*There were 47 cases according to the Registrar General's Returns.

‡All forms of pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939

Age periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp/y.		Respiratory		Non-Resp/y.	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1—5								
5—15				2				
15—25	2	2						
25—35		1			1	1		
35—45	2	4				1		
45—55				1				
55—65	1				2			
65 & over								
Totals..	5	7	0	3	3	2	0	0

The usual preventive action is taken in each case. Contacts are recommended to attend at the Welsh National Memorial Clinic at Bridgend. The total deaths according to the Registrar General's Return were six.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water.

Extensions of water mains have been made during the year within the District. These are:

(*a*) Llantwit Major Housing Site
(*b*) St. Athan Housing Site
(*c*) Court Estate Site, Boverton

Informal Notices served	24	Work done	21
Statutory Notices served	8	Work done	8

(under Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138).

In addition 65 properties were connected to the Water Board Mains.

2. Fire Hydrants.

5 New fire hydrants were installed during the year making a total of 145 hydrants in the District. These were methodically inspected and kept efficient.

3. Rainfall.

Rainfall for 1939 (Llanharan Station) ..... 58.16 ins.
Rainfall for 1939 (St. Athan Station) ..... 36.44 ins.
Average Rainfall over last five years (Llanharan)—49.67 ins.

4. Water Samples.

(*a*) PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Six samples were taken and examined. The water from one was found to be of doubtful bacterial purity. Informal and Formal Notices were served upon the owners of property using this water with the result that every house concerned has now been connected to the Board's Mains

(*b*) Private Supplies.

Eleven samples were taken and examined. Appropriate action was taken following receipt of the results of examination.

5. Drainage and Sewerage.

(*a*) Inspection of Drains : 430 and 89 choked drains were cleared. For other work under this Section see Table 3.

(*b*) The following Sewerage Schemes were completed (Reference Annual Report for Year 1938 for details)

(*i*) No. 2 Scheme for St. Athan

(*ii*) Llanharry Sewers and Disposal Works.

(*c*) 110 Properties have been connected to the Council's Sewers

(*d*) Sewage disposal works have operated satisfactorily and given fair results.

6. Rivers and Streams.

Nothing out of the ordinary to report.

7. Closet Accommodation.

Nine conversions from the pail and dry cesspool system to the water carriage system have been carried out. The necessary buildings, fittings and drains have been provided.

8. Public Cleansing.

The contracts remain the same as for 1938, except that the contract for the Royal Air Force Station, St. Athan, has considerably increased.

House to House Collections	 8
Public Bins	 2

9. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Only one house had to be treated for this purpose.

10. Schools.

(*a*) Water Supply.

Fourteen schools in the area are now provided with water under pressure.

(*b*) Closet Accommodation.

No change during the year.

(*c*) General Condition.

The buildings and amenities are kept in a good state, and conditions are generally satisfactory. Wash-hand basins have been provided at one of the schools during this year.

11. Workshops and Factories.

55 Inspections were made at these premises. Prosecutions were not called for, and all necessary work was carried out.

12. Petroleum Acts.

Licensed premises were kept under observation. No formal action was necessary.

13. Cinemas.

There is nothing out of the ordinary to report under this heading.

14. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See appendix, Table 1.

15. Shops and Offices.

The shops in the District are visited under Shops Act, 1934 re ventilation and temperatures, and under the Public Helath Act, 1936, re sanitary conveniences.

16. Camping Sites.

(*a*) No. of Sites 4

(*b*) No. of Camping Sites licensed under Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269 2

(*c*) Estimated No. of Campers resident at one time 270

17. Smoke Abatement.

No formal action found necessary.

18. Swimming Baths and Pools.

No change in position as reported for 1938.

TABLE 1.

	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices	Work done	Work not done	Work in hand	Statutory Notices	Work done	Work not done	Work in hand	Demolition orders	Clearance Area
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	108										
Drains Inspection & Testing	430										
Meat and other Foods ...	392	2	1	1							
Cowsheds, Dairies & Milk sh's	137	1			1						
Housing ...	353	207	200	7							
,, recorded ..	20										1
Public Health Act Nuisances	245	136	129	7							
Infectious Disease Inspectio's	61										
Disinfections ..	53										
Workshops, etc. ...	55										
House Refuse, Collection and Disposal	139										
Water Supplies ..	165	24	21	3		8	8				
Cinemas	24										
Petroleum	33										
Works in Progress ...	242										
General ..	906										
Totals	3363	370	351	18	1	8	8				1

Table No. 2 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1.—*Milk Supply.*

(*a*) Number of inspections made at Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops			137
(*b*) Informal Notices			1
(*c*) Work carried out			1
(*d*) Examination of samples for Bacteriological purposes—			
(*i*) Ungraded and Untreated		22	
(*ii*) Pasteurised		6	
(*iii*) Tuberculin Tested		3	

2.—*Milk and Dairies Order*, 1926.

(*a*) Applications for Registration—			
(*i*) Producers		15	
(*ii*) Farms as Dairies		15	
(*iii*) Purveyors of milk		5	
		—	35
(*b*) Registration cancelled by reason of ceasing to produce milk			
(*i*) Producers		13	
(*ii*) Farms as Dairies		13	
(*iii*) Purveyors of Milk		-	
		—	26
(*c*) Number of Producers registered			271
(*d*) Number of Farms as Dairies			271
(*e*) Wholesale traders			1
(*f*) Purveyors of Milk			84

3.—*Milk (Special Designations) Order* 1936 —1938 :

(*a*) Number of Pasteurising Plants registered	.....	1
(*b*) Number of Supplementary licences issued	.....	2
*(*c*) Number of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk		2
*(*d*) Number of producers of accredited milk	.....	28

*—Licensing authority—The Glamorgan County Council

4—*Meat and Other Foods*—

(*a*) Slaughterhouses, Meat Shops, Meat Vans inspected—		392
(*b*) Total Meat surrendered for the year	.....	2919 lbs.
Total Meat Offal surrendered for the year	.....	1693 lbs.

Table No. 3.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN DISTRICT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.

1.—*Interiors of Houses*—

a. Filthy Houses cleansed and whitewashed		—
b. Houses in which repairs to plastering brickwork or woodwork have been carried out		49
c. Portable Boilers, Back Boilers repaired	.....	52
d. Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, window openings or other means provided or repaired	....	74
e. Floors relaid or repaired	.....	9
f. Fireplaces repaired	....	44
g. Ceilings refixed	....	7

2.—*Exteriors of Houses*—

a.	Defective roofs made watertight	17
b.	Houses without eaves - spouting provided or existing spouting and shutes cleansed and repaired	19
c.	Damp Walls - Brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material	10
d.	Dangerous chimneys repaired or repointed	9
e.	Miscellaneous	2

3.—*Yards and Outbuildings*—

a.	Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable covers provided	-
b.	New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks repaired	1
c.	Miscellaneous	3

4.—*Drainage*—

a.	Sink and sink waste repairs	36
b.	Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage system	—
c.	Choked drainage system opened and cleansed	89
d.	Ventilation inefficient	6
e.	New drains	140

5.—*Privies, Water Closets, and Ashpits*—

a.	Sanitary Pails provided	5
b.	Choked water closets opened and cleansed	2
c.	Defective W.C. connections made good	19
d.	Baths and connections made good and flushing provided	46
e.	Cesspools emptied	40
f.	Offensive Urinals repaired	—
g.	Repairs to structure of Sanitary Convenience	1
h.	New Cesspools	—

6.—*Water Supply*—

a. Houses without a proper supply of drinking water laid on and repaired	.....	50
b. Taps provided or repaired	.....	16
c. Hot water services repaired	.....	11

7.—*Housing Act*, 1925-36—

a. Houses unfit for human habitation	.....	25
b. Demolition Orders made	.....	—
c. Demolished by formal action		—
d. Houses demolished	.....	2